

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY USERDA:SS:JEMAHY

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R 052028Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS STATE 131489

E.O. 11652: NGXA

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, PARM

SUBJEC: IAEA SAFEGUARDS AT WESTINGHOUSE, CHESWICK

REF: IAEA VIENNA 4269 DATED 5/16/75

1. FRENZEL VISIT TO WASHINGTON JUNE 23-24 ACCEPTABLE.

2. REGARDING JAPANESE PLUTONIUM AT WESTINGHOUSE, WE RECOMMEND FOLLOWING THREE ALTERNATIVES FOR MISSION CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE DISCUSSION WITH AGENCY (FRENZEL, RUBENSTEIN): (A) ALTHOUGH AN AGENCY SAFEGUARDS VISIT TO WESTINGHOUSE TO OPEN PRESENTLY SEALED CONTAINERS IS POSSIBLE, IT SEEMS TO US TO BE LEAST DESIRABLE ALTERNATIVE, IN VIEW OF VERY LARGE EXPENSE INVOLVED AND FACT THAT AGENCY WOULD STILL ONLY BE ABLE TO COUNT THE RODS WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT QUANTITY OF PLUTONIUM WAS CONTAINED IN THEM. FURTHER, WE SEE NO PRESSURE ON AGENCY, IN TERMS OF DEMONSTRATING TECHNICAL CREDIBILITY, TO GO THIS ROUTE; (B) UNCLASSIFIED

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A SECOND ALTERNATIVE IS TO USE SUBSTITUTION, AS DISCUSSED

BETWEEN MAHY AND FRENZEL IN APRIL. SUBSTITUTION IS AN
OPTION AGENCY CAN CHOOSE IF THEY WISH, AND AGENCY SHOULD BE MADE
AWARE OF THAT FACT. AGAIN, HOWEVER WE SEE NO PRESSURE TO USE
SUBSTITUTION AND IN VIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON U.S. FOR
MAKING SUCH ARRANGEMENTS, WE WOULD NOT REPORT NOT ENCOURAGE AGENCY
TO ADOPT THIS APPROACH; (C) WE SUGGEST AGENCY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER
FOLLOWING APPROACH; DURING FORTHCOMING VISIT, FRENZEL SHOULD STOP AT
CHESWICK TO CHECK AGENCY SEALS. AT THAT TIME DISCUSS WITH WESTINGHOUSE

AUTHORITIES POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING SUFFICIENT PLUTONIUM PELLETS
AND ROD MATERIAL TO ALLOW AGENCY TO ASSEMBLE AND TEST A NON-
DESTRUCTIVE STANDARD AGAINST WHICH TO CHECK THE FUEL RODS AT TIME WHEN

FUEL RODS ARE SUBSEQUENTLY UNPACKED AT WESTINGHOUSE, COLUMBIA,
AGENCY WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO COUNT FUEL RODS BUT
ALSO, USING THE NDA STANDARD, MEASURE PLUTONIUM CONTENT TO BEST OF
THEIR ABILITY. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT GIVE ANY FIRM IDEA AS TO
HOW LONG RODS WILL BE IN CURRENT STORAGE SITUATION, FACT OF IAEA
SEALS ON CASK WILL FREEZE THAT SITUATION UNTIL A MORE MEANINGFUL
VERIFICATION (I.E. NDA MEASUREMENT AS OPPOSED TO SIMPLY COUNTING
RODS) CAN BE MADE.

3. NOTE THAT CHESWICK PLANT WILL BE SHUT DOWN FOR WEEK BEGINNING
JUNE 30.

4. PLEASE ADVISE. KISSINGER

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